



JON M. HUNTSMAN, JR.  
Governor

GARY R. HERBERT  
Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

### Division of Oil, Gas & Mining

MICHAEL R. STYLER  
Executive Director

JOHN R. BAZA  
Division Director

### Inspection Report

#### Minerals Regulatory Program

Report Date August 9, 2006

Supervisor 

**Mine Name:** Small Fry  
**Operator Name:** Molycorr

**Permit number:** M0370022  
**Inspection Date:** June 14-15, 2006  
**Time:** about 5:00 to 6:30 on the 14<sup>th</sup>;  
about 8:00 to 10:00 on the 15<sup>th</sup>

**Inspector(s):** Paul Baker  
**Other Participants:** Ray Cherniske (Molycorp)  
**Mine Status:** Reclaimed

**Weather:** mostly cloudy, 60s

Elements of Inspection	Evaluated	Comment	Enforcement
1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Deleterious Material	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Roads (maintenance, surfacing, dust control, safety)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Concurrent Reclamation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Backfilling/Grading (trenches, pits, roads, highwalls, shafts, drill holes)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Water Impoundments	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Revegetation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Air Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

#### Purpose of Inspection:

It has been three years since the site was seeded, and our primary purpose was to see whether it meets release criteria, particularly for revegetation.

#### Inspection Summary:

##### 1. Permits, Revisions, Transfer, Bonds

The Division is currently holding a reclamation surety in the amount of \$3800.00 for revegetation of this site.

##### 2. Public Safety (shafts, adits, trash, signs, highwalls)

There has been some settling where the portals were backfilled (Photo 1), but I looked very closely and could not see any sign of an opening into the mine workings.

##### 3. Protection of Drainages / Erosion Control

Some parts of the area have very good vegetation cover while others, especially those with more clay, have little or none. As shown in Photos 2 and 3, there has been some erosion on the pad. Toward the south end of the pad in particular, there is a drainage that drops on to the pad which has created a small gully.

##### 10. Revegetation

I took measurements of perennial vegetation cover in six different areas within the reclaimed area and weighted these areas according to the number of square feet in each. In the largest area, the mine pad, I measured perennial cover in 23 quadrats. I also measured perennial cover in an undisturbed area just east of the mine pad that appeared to be similar to what the mine site probably looked like prior to disturbance.

The weighted cover value for the reclaimed area is 14.3 percent. In the undisturbed area, I estimated perennial cover at 17.2 percent.

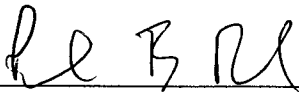
**Conclusions and Recommendations:**

There is almost certainly more erosion in the reclaimed areas than in the undisturbed areas which is something of a concern. I do not believe remedial action is necessary because the erosion is not so severe that it is creating large gullies or interfering with grazing or wildlife habitat postmining land uses and because there are no perennial streams nearby. Although some sediment travels outside the disturbed area, most of the sediment has been settling out within the disturbed area.

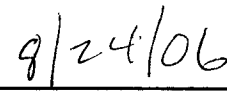
With the cover in the undisturbed area being 17.2 percent, the revegetation success standard is 12.0 percent. Since cover in the reclaimed area is 14.3 percent, it meets this standard.

A portion of the site is on patented land and part is on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, so before the Division allows any bond release, it will need to obtain concurrence from the BLM.

Inspector's Signature



Date:



PBB:pb

cc: Ray Cherniske, Molycorp  
Frank Bain, Moab BLM

Attachment: Photos



## ATTACHMENT

### Photographs

M0370022, Small Fry Mine, Molycorp

Inspection Dated: June 14-15, 2006; Report Dated: August 9, 2006



**Photo 1. Backfilled portal area.**



**Photo 3. Another view of erosion on the pad.**



**Photo 2. There has been some erosion, mostly on the steeper slopes in the pad area.**



**Photo 4. A reclaimed road on the plateau above the mine.**





**Photo 5. The mine access road.**



**Photo 6. An overview of the pad.**



**Photo 7. This shows a portion of the pad and some of the undisturbed area below the mine where I measured vegetation cover.**